



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicant(s):** Junichi Muramatsu, et al.

**Examiner:** Glenn K. Dawson

**Serial No:** 10/067,607

**Art Unit:** 3731

**Filed:** February 5, 2002

**Docket:** 15248

**For:** APPARATUS FOR LIGATING  
LIVING TISSUES

**Dated:** July 14, 2005

**Conf. No.:** 5886

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND SPECIES ELECTION**

Sir:

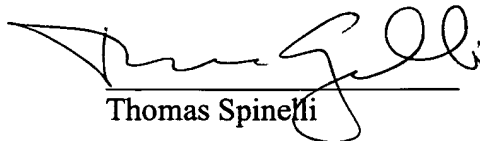
Pursuant to the election requirement imposed in the Official Action dated March 14, 2005, Applicants elect the claims of Group I, i.e., Claims 1-29, 33 and 34 and the claims of Species XIII, i.e., claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 15-19, and 21-24 for continued prosecution herein.

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 14, 2005.

Dated: July 14, 2005

  
Thomas Spinelli